

Study Guide for April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Plagues I: Warning Signs. Ex. 7:14 – 8:19.

Introduction: Has your doctor ever warned you about the need to make lifestyle changes to protect your health? How did you respond? What was the long range result?

I. The Purpose of the Plagues:

- A. What God had revealed to Moses regarding his confrontation with Pharaoh?  
1) Ex. 3:9:                      2) Ex. 3:19-20:                      3) Ex. 7:3-5:
- B. What does God reveal as to Moses as to his reason for the plagues?  
1) Ex. 7:17:                      2) Ex. 8:10-11, 22:                      3) Ex. 9:14:
- C. Consider: “The plagues are not just a display of God’s creative forces against the enemies of God’s people. . . (God) chose rather to fight with weapons that no one but he had, and against which there was no defense. . . Hence, the plagues are an undoing of creation, a series of creation reversals, at Egypt’s expense. . . God once again restores order to chaos as he did in the beginning. . . Each plague is a reminder of the supreme power of Yahweh, the creator.” (Enns, Exodus, NDOBT)

II. The Pattern in the Progression of the Plagues:

- A. **When** does God instruct Moses to announce #’s 1, 4 & 7 (Ex. 7:15, 8:20, & 9:13)?
- B. **What command** begins God’s instruction for #’s 2, 5 & 8 (Ex. 8:1, 9:1 & 10:1)?
- C. What is lacking from God’s instruction for #’s 3, 6 & 9 (Ex. 8:16, 9:8 & 12:21)?
- D. What changes do you note as the plagues progress? What is God communicating?

III. The Particular Warning of the First Cycle:

- A. Blood in the Nile: (Ex. 7:14-25)  
1. Why does God cause the Nile to become a place of death? (See Ex. 1:22, 2:10)  
2. How do Pharaoh’s officials respond? (Ex. 7:22)                      What is the effect?  
3. How long does this last according to Ex. 7:25?                      Why is that significant?
- B. Frogs everywhere: (Ex. 8:1-15)  
1. Frogs were a sacred symbol of fertility in Egypt. What does God show here?  
2. How do Pharaoh’s officials respond? (Ex. 8:7)                      What is the effect?  
3. What does Pharaoh ask Moses? How does Moses reply? What does this show?
- C. Gnats upon men and animals: (Ex. 8:16-19)  
1. From what do the gnats arise?                      What is the effect on Egypt?  
2. How do Pharaoh’s officials respond? (Ex. 8:18)                      What is their conclusion?  
3. How is *dust* used in (Gen. 3:19, Ps. 104:29 & Eccles. 3:20)? What’s the point?